



1869

CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: January 20, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director
Subject: Transit Bus Repower

Executive Summary

Federal grant funds in the amount of \$377,748.24 have already been approved by City Council for capital replacement for the purpose of replacing (repower) six (6) of Durham Area Transit Authority's ("DATA") current 2008 model transit bus engines. These vehicles continue to have engine problems and after several repairs the decision has been made to repower them. City staff has worked with Triangle Transit to solicit bids and have identified a vendor to repower these buses as described below.

Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Clarke Power Services, Inc. to repower six 2008 model transit buses for \$377,748.24.

Background

The City of Durham is repowering (6) of the City's 2008 model 40 foot low floor Gillig buses that are operated as part of DATA's fixed route service. Currently, two out of the six 2008 buses are out of service due to engine failures. The remaining four buses cannot be run as daily route buses due to engine problems. This engine has been updated multiple times since its introduction in 2008. The repower has become necessary as the spare ratio without these six buses would fall below the recommended 20% spare threshold.

Issues and Analysis

These model buses are not eligible for replacement until 2018, which means they will remain in service for another three (3) years. In the absence of replacing the engines, there will continue to be major breakdowns resulting in costly repairs. The preferred way to avoid this is to replace the engines with an entirely different engine. The 22 engines (2003 model buses) that were replaced three years ago are doing extremely well.

The City has solicited bids to repower all six of the 2008 (Gillig) model transit buses. Specifications were written; an advertisement was placed; a pre-bid conference was held; and bids were ultimately received on December 18, 2014. Four bids were received. They are:

Cummins Atlantic	\$73,656.64 per engine
Midwest Bus Corporation	\$81,480.31 per engine
Coach Crafters, Inc.	\$85,934.00 per engine
Clarke Power Services	\$62,958.04 per engine

The proposed contract with Clarke Power Services has been developed for this purpose.

Alternatives

- (1) City Council awards a contract to Clarke Power Services for the purpose of repowering six (6) of the 2008 transit buses at a net cost of \$62,958.04 per bus, but in no case to exceed \$377,748.24 which is the total for repowering all six (6) buses.
- (2) City Council does not award a contract to Clarke Power Service for the purpose of repowering six (6) of the 2008 transit buses. There will continue to be breakdowns as these remaining six (6) buses are used and the City will have to make costly repairs. This is not desirable since the cost of the repower project will be far less than the estimated cost of on-going maintenance of the six (6) buses proposed to be repowered.

Financial Impact

A total of \$377,748.24, (a \$302,199 federal grant and City match funding of \$75,549.24) has already been approved by City Council and established within the City budget.

SDBE Summary

The City's transit program is a federally funded program.

DBE participation is not an issue that is associated with execution of this FTA capital grant. The Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department reviewed the bid submitted by Clarke Power Services of Greensboro, North Carolina and has determined that they are in compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Opportunity in City Contracting.

There were no SDBEs with the qualifications to provide this Product.

The workforce statistics for Clarke Power Services are as follows:

Total Workforce	37	100%
Total Females	1	3%
Black Males	0	0%
White Males	34	92%
Other Males	2	5%
Black Females	0	0%
White Females	1	3%
Other Females	0	0%
Total Males	36	97%

Attachment

Purchase Contract